Enumeration of backward classes in new census

3009. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any plan to enumerate backward classes in the new census, 2000; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor enumerating the backward classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter relating to undertaking caste/community-wise (including backward classes) census was examined and it was decided by the Government to continue with the policy not to collect population characteristics by caste/class at the Census of India, 2001.

Implementation status of International Convention Hall

3010. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 510 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd November, 2000 and state the implementation status of the International Convention Hall and the Auditorium Complex at Guwahati for which the foundation stone was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 9th July, 1999 alongwith the Sankardev Kalakshetra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): The scheme of Srimanta Sankaradeva International Hall and the Auditorium Complex at Guwahati is not on the Monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. In accordance with the information available from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Department of Culture), the Department of Culture had supported the establishment of Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra as a part of the Assam Accord and provided a grant of Rs. 18.85 crores. a Out of Rs. 18.85 crores,

release of an amount of Rs. 5 crores has been recommended by the Planning Commission on 15.3.2001 from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources during the year 2000-2001.

Delayed Projects

3011. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "189 Government projects face delay" appearing in the 'News-Time' dated the 9th January, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps have been initiated to identify the persons responsible for the reported time and cost overruns;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what measures Government propose to take to ensure that projects are completed as per the schedule and within the sanctioned Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) As on 1.1.2001, out of 197 major and mega projects each costing Rs. 100 crores and above, 128 projects have cost overrun of the order of Rs. 46,082.7 crores and 91 projects have time overrun with respect to their original schedule of commissioning. The sector-wise break-up of cost overruns as well as time overrun is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below). The reasons for delay are lack of supporting infrastructure facilities; delay in finalisation of detailed engineering and release of drawings and delay in availability of fronts; changes in scope; industrial relations and law & order problems; delay and uncertainty in feedstock supply; precommissioning teething troubles; technology problems; and geological surprises.

(c) and (d) In order to bring accountability in the execution of projects, Standing Committees have been set up in all the concerned